

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:926

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000

TRAIL AGAINST HIJACKERS

GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Tribune dated January 10, 2000 under the caption 'Pak trained ultras active worldwide:
- (b) whether Maulana Masood Azhar, who is Pakistani Muslim cleric freed by India in return for hostages has vowed to recruit half a million men to fight Indian rule in Kashmir;
- (c) whether the Pakistan Government has stated that the hijackers would be tried as per international law;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (e) the action proposed to be taken by the government to curb the activities of Pakistan militant in Kashmir?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)-(b) Yes Sir. Government have seen reports about the hostile propagandist statements against India made by leaders of Pakistani terrorist organizations.

(c)-(d) Government have raised the matter of the hijacking with the Government of Pakistan and provided evidence to them of the involvement of their nationals in the hijacking. Available evidence with Government strongly points towards the presence of the hijackers in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan, in its response, has reiterated its general position that it would undertake to apprehend and prosecute any person or persons found on its territory or the territory of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir who may be suspected of having committed such offences related to hijacking. As they have at the same time rejected the evidence provided to them by Government, Pakistan's general commitment has to be assessed accordingly.

(e) Government remain firm in their resolve to combat terrorism and continue to take all necessary steps to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.